

HONORING LAWRENCE ALLEN AS  
A DISTINGUISHED LEADER IN  
CENTRAL FLORIDA FOR BLACK  
HISTORY MONTH

**HON. DARREN SOTO**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 17, 2023*

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, Lawrence "Lare" Allen is a lifelong resident of Osceola County Florida. He graduated from Osceola High and then from the United States Military Academy at West Point. After a tour in the Middle East, he returned to Osceola County to begin a career in education.

One of his biggest fears was being the person who extinguished a child's natural love of learning. He aspired to impart a sense of adventure, hope, and belief to his students. He wanted them to know they could become happy, productive members of society. He treated his students as if they were his younger cousins. He met them where they were and helped them move forward along their own journey.

Lare Allen believes a free quality public education should be available to all citizens. He has worked diligently to achieve that goal within his community. He understands that it begins with supporting the people who support our students since educator working conditions are student learning conditions. He noticed that too often legislation was implemented that did more harm to the students than good, so he became involved in his local union.

Since there was always more work available than people to do the work, he stepped forward to volunteer in a variety of roles. Regardless of one's party affiliation and regardless of one's race religion or creed, he would sit down to discuss how to better serve the students because he believed collaboration achieved better results than competition.

Lare Allen is currently the president of the Osceola County Education Association. He intends to retire this year. He will begin a new career as a day trader with more time to advocate for staff and students at the school board and state levels. He is happily married to his beautiful wife, Laura Portorreal Allen. They have several amiable children.

RECOGNIZING JAKE WOODARD'S  
BRAVERY AND HEROISM

**HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 17, 2023*

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstanding constituent from my district, Jake Woodard. Late in the evening on the day after Christmas, with freezing temperatures, Pennsbury High School Junior, Jake Woodard's family was driving home from a holiday party. As they were driving, Jake, a certified lifeguard and member of Pennsbury's JROTC program, noticed a car had pulled over to the side and a man was lying on the ground. A woman was waving for help. Jake immediately demanded that his dad pull the car over so he could help.

Jake got out of the car, and he immediately came to the aid of the man on the ground. Ap-

parently, the man had been walking on the sidewalk and hit a large patch of ice that was about three inches thick and landed on his back, likely hitting his head on the ground.

A woman and her son had seen the man and pulled over. However, as they were unsure how to help him, they waved down Jake's car for help. As the adults stood around questioning what to do, Jake took a knee and began speaking to the man by identifying himself and telling him he was there to help. The man told him his name and stated he had been on the ground for about 15 minutes. As the man was groaning in pain and stating that he couldn't move, Jake advised the man not to move. After a few minutes, the man lost consciousness, and as his eyes rolled to the back of his head, his tongue also rolled to the back of his throat. Jake reached into the man's mouth and cleared his airway to ensure he could properly breathe.

As they waited for the EMTs to show up, Jake continued to take the man's pulse and repeatedly checked that the man was still breathing all while saying "Dan, you are going to be okay, but you need to stay with us."

When the EMTs showed up, Jake immediately told them what had happened, how long he had been there, and included the rate of his pulse and breathing. As the EMTs stabilized the man's neck, Jake continued to speak to the unconscious man, Dan, telling him help was here, and that he needed to try and wake up.

When the EMTs struggled to get the man onto the gurney because of the thick ice, they asked Jake to assist. He reached under the man's lower back and legs, and as best he could he kept him stable while assisting the man onto the gurney. The man never regained consciousness, but Jake made sure the man didn't move, was still breathing, and made sure he knew he wasn't alone.

When it was all said and done, Jake's mom proudly hugged her son, and asked him how he knew what to do. He said lifeguarding taught him what to do and JROTC taught him why to do it, as he stated it was his duty to help.

We are all incredibly grateful for the bravery and heroism of Jake Woodard and all that he does for our community.

CELEBRATING DR. SUSAN  
SPERLING

**HON. ERIC SWALWELL**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 17, 2023*

Mr. SWALWELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Dr. Susan Sperling in honor of her retirement as President of Chabot College after 11 years.

Dr. Sperling is the ninth president of Chabot College and the second-longest-serving president. During her 11 years as president, the college improved fiscal stability by securing funding for major infrastructure projects across the campus and helped secure Hayward Promise Neighborhood grants that bring federal resources to the most underserved communities of Hayward and deepen partnerships with local organizations and educational institutions.

In addition, under Dr. Sperling's leadership, Chabot College established the Dream Center

for undocumented students, the Black Cultural Resource Center and more than a dozen agreements and partnerships with feeder K-12 school districts.

Most recently, Dr. Sperling led the college through the unprecedented challenges brought on by the pandemic and the impacts this has had on students, faculty and staff.

Even before serving as President, Dr. Sperling's service to Chabot College goes back 36 years. She first served as an anthropology instructor, where she developed a new program curriculum. Dr. Sperling has also served in a series of faculty leadership roles, including faculty union president, college curriculum chair and dean of social sciences.

An anthropologist by training, Dr. Sperling received her doctorate at the University of California, Berkeley, and completed postdoctoral research at the University of California San Francisco. This led to early career academic posts at University of California Berkeley, San Jose State and several community colleges.

As a community college serving marginalized and low-income communities, Dr. Sperling has brought a democratic vision to Chabot College, advocating for equal access to education and improving access to career pathways.

I join the community in celebrating the many achievements of her career and wish her rest and relaxation. I know Dr. Sperling looks forward to focusing more of her time on anthropology, serving her community and spending quality time with family, including her husband, Marc Janowitz, son, Max Landes, and daughter-in-law Emily Mraz.

HONORING DR. AMANDA  
WILKERSON AS A DISTIN-  
GUISHED LEADER IN CENTRAL  
FLORIDA FOR BLACK HISTORY  
MONTH

**HON. DARREN SOTO**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 17, 2023*

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, Dr. Amanda Wilkerson is a scholar and social reformer who examines academia and analyzes K-20 student achievement to better understand enhancing the human condition. She is a tireless advocate for equity and excellence in higher education who seeks to build a better world for individuals and institutions through cooperation, collaboration, and community engagement.

Currently, Dr. Wilkerson serves as an assistant professor in the College of Community Innovation and Education at the University of Central Florida. She is also an affiliated faculty member and a visiting scholar with the Center for Minority Serving Institutions at Rutgers University. A proud graduate of Florida A&M University, Dr. Wilkerson has written educational materials and coordinated forums on significant civic and scholastic matters. Dr. Wilkerson served as the guest editor for the Urban Education Research and Policy Annals Journal-Hillard Sizemore Special.

As a part of her passion for higher education and her mission to create inclusive learning environments, Dr. Wilkerson regularly works with instructional leaders to build their

capacity for studying and practicing equity-based pedagogical approaches. Her research focuses on explicating affirmative teaching practices, educational policies, and community organizing methods that improve community partnerships and bolster student success. Dr. Wilkerson has been recognized with the Outstanding Service in Education award by the Holmes Scholars Association of the American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education (AACTE) and the Diversity Scholarship with the Adult Higher Education Association (AHEA). She serves as the national chair for the Urban Education Topical Action Group for AACTE.

Dr. Amanda Wilkerson is an innovator and an intellectual who continues to work on community initiatives. To date, she is the first faculty member in her department to secure a prestigious National Science Foundation award. Further, she is an expert with Florida ExpertNet, a publicly funded portal of research expertise in Florida's universities.

RECOGNIZING THE PASSING OF  
CINDY GAULKE

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 17, 2023*

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to remember my friend and former colleague, Cindy Gaulke. During my time as a Portland city commissioner, Cindy was our office's scheduler and a dedicated public servant in the truest sense of the term.

Cindy was an integral team player, focused, and determined. She was the heart and soul of our City Hall office. She was dedicated to doing her job well, sorting things out, and was there when you needed her. And she had a great sense of humor.

When I won a special election to serve in Congress, I turned to Cindy to ask if she would come out to Washington, D.C. to help set up our Congressional office. I was thankful to have a friend and terrific partner as the team figured out how Capitol Hill worked. I will forever be grateful Cindy was willing to share some of her competence with me and my team.

Cindy was a bright spot of confidence, good cheer and dedication that made our lives function in our Nation's Capital. I am honored to have known her and to have worked with her.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY  
OF LINSEY EBERT

HON. ELISSA SLOTKIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 17, 2023*

Ms. SLOTKIN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to a beloved teacher, athlete, coach, daughter, sister, aunt, and friend who inspired so many during her 45 years on earth, and continues to inspire and teach us even in death. Linsey Anne Ebert was born on September 12, 1977 in Howell, Michigan. She grew up in Fowlerville with her parents, Cecelia and Randy, and her older sister, Tonya. Active in many sports from a young

age, Linsey found her true passion on the volleyball court, playing on the varsity team as a high school freshman, earning all-state honors and eventually signing to play for the University of Michigan on a full scholarship.

There, she graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in 1999 while racking up victories for the Wolverine volleyball team and helping lead them to the NCAA tournament. To this day, she holds numerous university records, and even played internationally for a brief time after graduation.

As significant as her collegiate and athletic accomplishments were, they were just the beginning for Linsey, who went on to earn not one but two Master's degrees from the Trinity Evangelical Divinity School, along with her teaching certifications. Her abiding faith was evident in all she did, including her early years teaching at-risk youth in Chicago Public Schools. The tug of family brought her back to Michigan, and in 2012 she was hired to teach middle school science and social studies in Dansville Public Schools, and as a volleyball coach at Fowlerville High School.

There are those who were born to teach, and Linsey was a prime example. She poured her heart into her lesson plans and her students and was passionate about implementing the most effective, research-based strategies. She mentored thousands of students and always sought to ensure they knew they were seen, valued, and loved, while pushing them to become academically proficient. Linsey was the first to step up to lead an extracurricular activity or club, to chaperone a trip, or to fill a void, including learning a whole new curriculum when the district needed a high school biology teacher. She was passionate about understanding systemic racism, educational inequities, and reaching marginalized students. It's no surprise that in 2018, Linsey was chosen as the Dansville Teacher of the Year for her outstanding teaching and service to the school and community.

I had the chance to meet Linsey a few years ago and hear firsthand her passionate belief in the power of education to change lives. She was active and engaged on every issue, and radiated love for her students and her craft.

Every one of us can look back and identify a teacher who made a difference. For thousands of students, Linsey Ebert was exactly that. She was brilliant, accomplished, and humble, and her sudden death rips a hole in the fabric of this small community. But even in death, Linsey, a registered organ donor, continues to teach us what it means to be fully devoted to the service of others. Mr. Speaker, I send my condolences to her family, her friends, her former colleagues, and the entire Dansville community. Just as her lessons will live on in the people she loved, it is only fitting that her name and her story be forever remembered.

RECOGNIZING BRENDA LAWRENCE

HON. RASHIDA TLAIB

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 17, 2023*

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, today I want to recognize Congresswoman Brenda Lawrence for her more than 30 years of service to the people of Michigan.

A true servant of the people, Congresswoman Lawrence has inspired countless women to pursue better for their communities in public service. As an Eastsider of Detroit, her experience helped to shape her impact. Her career in politics began when as an active member in the PTA at her children's school, she ran for and won a seat on the Southfield Public Schools Board. She went on to serve on Southfield's City Council and broke barriers by being elected as the city of Southfield's first Black Mayor. She served four terms as mayor before she was elected to serve as a member of U.S. Congress in 2014.

Over the course of her career, Brenda Lawrence never wavered in her service to the people she represented. She has been an advocate, leader, and partner in the U.S. House of Representatives. The 12th Congressional District will forever remember her impact on our communities. We thank her for uplifting the voices of everyday people.

In honor of her remarkable career, please join me in celebrating Congresswoman Brenda Lawrence and her legacy of public service.

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*Friday, February 17, 2023*

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, Mr. Eric Pinellas was born and raised in Osceola County and graduated from Osceola High School in 1990. He went on to earn a degree from Georgia Military College and returned to Osceola County where he served as a behavior specialist with the Center for Drug-Free Living from 1995 to 1999. Mr. Pinellas knew his purpose was to impact our youth. He started his career with the Osceola County School District in 2000 as an educator and impactful coach.

Mr. Pinellas has dedicated his life to serving the youth while employed at Osceola High School—23 years coaching football, weightlifting, and track and field. He has coached nine state champions in track and field, two in girls weightlifting, and has been a member of four state runner-up coaching staffs in football. Mr. Pinellas has also helped over 50 of his athletes earn athletic scholarships to various colleges and universities across the country. He realized our youth could use their athletic abilities to take them to places they have never been. He understood those talents can be used as leverage to succeed. Most recently, he was named head football coach at Osceola after 21 years as a dedicated assistant coach where he also holds the title of head boys and girls track coach.

Mr. Pinellas' community involvement has also included volunteering with both youth football and youth track teams in the Osceola County community. These youth teams have been able to display their many talents at many national events across the United States. He is recognized as a strong pillar in the community. Mr. Pinellas has always felt it was his obligation to give back to his community in the same manner that he saw others do as he grew up in the city of Kissimmee. He lives by the motto "one child at a time."